

Board of Selectmen Meeting – December 13, 2012
Held at: Great Hall, Town Hall
Present: Tsagaris, Gibbs, Searle, Babson, McCauley
Also present: Hans Larsen, Sheryl Strother, Rachel Lopes
Call to order: Meeting called to order at 8:00 am.

1. Citizen Speak

None.

2. FY14 Operating Budget

Marc Waldman, Treasurer joined the Board and answered questions regarding workers' compensation reserve levels, life insurance premium costs and banking fees. It was agreed the FY14 budget request for life insurance premium costs should be reduced by \$15,000.

Mr. Larsen described the rationale for the large increase in the Legal budget. Following discussion by the Board it was agreed to reduce this by \$25,000. Ms. Lopes also noted that the budget for street lighting costs can be reduced by \$14,700.

Chief Rick DeLorie and Deputy Chief Jeff Peterson joined the Board and answered questions regarding the long-term trend in Fire Department overtime costs. They also provided the Board with a schedule detailing the education incentives to be paid to each member of the Department.

Gayle Thieme, COA Director and Diane Lapon, COA Board member, joined the Board. Ms. Thieme provided an overview of their budget request, focusing on the additional staff resources requested. Ms. Lapon observed that the high per-ride cost of the Department's transportation program is not sustainable. Ms. Babson noted that the future construction of a new Senior Center is likely to necessitate additional staff resources. Mr. Larsen observed that the trend in staffing needs for this department may exceed the level disclosed to Town Meeting at the time funds for design of the Senior Center were appropriated.

Ms. Thieme and Ms. Lapon left the meeting and the Board continued its discussion of the COA budget request. Mr. McCauley suggested some tradeoff should be made between continuing the high level of transportation costs and funding the additional staff resources. It was agreed that Ms. Tsagaris should discuss the matter with Ms. Thieme.

Mr. Larsen noted that the planned operational audit of the Building Department has not been completed, so additional staff have not been added. He suggested the FY14 budget for this department continue to carry funding for an additional part-time employee. As in the prior year budget, this would also allow for the hiring of an additional fulltime inspector midway through the fiscal year.

Ms. Lopes will update the FY14 budget summary and the Board will aim to vote on the revised budget at the next meeting (Monday evening, December 17th).

At 9:40 the meeting was adjourned.